

Message Text

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SUBJ: FORMATION OF TURKISH SOCIALIST WORKERS

PARTY (TSWP)

1. A GROUP OF 15 TURKISH INTELLECTUALS AND INDUSTRIAL WORKERS
JUNE 23 ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION OF THE TURKISH SOCIALIST
WORKERS PARTY (TSWP). ACCORDING TO STATEMENTS BY TWO OF
TSWP'S FOUNDERS, ENGINEER AND PARTY PRESIDENT AHMET KACMAZ,
AND JOURNALIST OYA BAYDAR, THE PARTY HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED
BECAUSE FOUNDATION OF A SOCIALIST PARTY IS IMPERATIVE IN
STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY. PARTY'S PLATFORM CALLS FOR NATIONAL-
IZATION OF ALL RESOURCES AND INDUSTRIES UNDER CONTROL OF
"IMPERIALISM" AND "LOCAL FINANCIAL OLIGARCHY", SPECIFICALLY
FOREIGN FIRMS, TRADE AND INSURANCE COMPANIES. STATEMENTS BY
FOUNDERS DENOUNCED CAPITALISM AS INCOMPATIBLE WITH ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT OF THE "PEOPLE".

2. THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WERE SHOWN AS FOUNDERS: AHMET KACMAZ,
PRESIDENT (ENGINEER); YALCIN YUSUFOGLU, GENERAL SECRETARY
(GEOPHYSICIST); OYA BAYDAR (WRITER), BURHAN SAHIN (UNION LEADER);
HIKMET KARAHAN (CHEMICAL WORKER); CEMAL ODEN (RUBBER INDUSTRY
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WORKER); ALI KAN (METALWORKER); IBRAHIM SAHIN (METALWORKER);

ISMAIL GURDAL (COFFEEHOUSE OWNER); OSMAN SERCAN (TEXTILE WORKER);
MEHMET SAHIN (TEXTILE WORKER); AYHAN CEKIC (UPHOLSTERY WORKER);
HAMDI GULENO (TEXTILE WORKER); AYDOGAN GEZER (UNION OFFICIAL);
CEMAL CELIK (LABORER).

3. COMMENT: IT IS STILL PREMATURE TO COMMENT ON VIABILITY OF
TSWP, SINCE ORGANIZATION HAS NOT YET RECEIVED OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION
FROM INTERIOR MINISTRY. BROADLY SPEAKING, HOWEVER, THE
EMERGENCE OF A PARTY OF THE FAR LEFT IS A NATURAL CONSEQUENCE OF
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS SINCE MARTIAL LAW WAS ENDED IN SEPT. 1973.
THE TSWP NO DOUBT HOPES TO FILL VACUUM ON LEFT OF TURKISH
POLITICAL SPECTRUM CREATED BY CLOSING OF TURKISH LABOR PARTY IN
1972. THE LIST OF "FOUNDERS", HOWEVER, REVEALS NO PROMINENT
POLITICAL FIGURES. ONLY NAMES IMMEDIATELY KNOWN TO US ARE
OYA BAYDAR, COLUMNIST ON YENI ORTAM, AND BURHAN SAHIN,
PRESIDENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY LABOR CONFEDERATION (DISK)
AFFILIATED PRESS WORKERS UNION. BOTH ARE OUTSPOKEN SUPPORTERS
OF THE LEFT.

4. ALTHOUGH NEW PARTY APPARENTLY HOPES TO BECOME NEW
LOCUS OF LEFTIST POLITICS, FOUNDERS ARE PROCEEDING WITH CAUTION.
NEWSPAPERS QUOTE TSWP PRESIDENT, AHMET KACMAZ, AS
SAYING THAT PARTY MUST PURSUE GOALS WITHIN DEMOCRATIC FRAME-
WORK AND REMAINING MINDFUL OF "EXPERIMENTS OF THE PAST".
STATEMENT WAS CAREFUL TO PRAISE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY
(RPP) AND STRESS THAT TSWP WOULD COOPERATE WITH THE RPP PROGRAM.
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